



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/779,974	02/09/2001	Tony Joe Brice	7099.1269	8166
826	7590	07/25/2005	EXAMINER	
			POND, ROBERT M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3625	

DATE MAILED: 07/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/779,974	BRICE ET AL.
	Examiner Robert M. Pond	Art Unit 3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 May 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 20 April 2005 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

The Applicant amended claim 1. All pending claims (1-18) were examined in this non-final office action.

Response to Arguments

Rejection under 35 USC 101

The Applicant amended claim 1 to overcome rejection. Rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 USC 101 is withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 102(e)

Applicant's arguments filed 14 March 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Examiner inspected the provisional application

60/212,847 filed on 20 June 2000. Domineck's provisional application discloses pre-packaging and dynamic packaging of travel packages:

- Customer empowered to modify packages created by the system from a personal web page (Logical Architecture Definition, page 6 of 13).
- Customer receives email and hyper-links to UAL.com to review a package or to customize the package. As the customer customized the package from a personal web page, the system dynamically checks available inventories and prices and updates the package price. (Logical Architecture Definition, page 10 of 13).
- Supports the customization and dynamic creation of travel package (Logical Architecture Definition, page 11 of 13).
- Cross-sells and up-sells, leveraging the customer's profile information, travel history, and online web behavior (Logical Architecture Definition, page 12 of 13).
- Phase 2B in the system logic flow shows UAL.com receiving from the customer alternative travel package request, the system configuring alternative packages (please note: dynamic assembly), and the UAL.com presenting alternative packages to the customer (Appendix A, Phase 2B, page 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. **Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 14-18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Domenick et al. (Paper #20040811, patent application number 2002/0072937 hereinafter referred to as “Domenick”), in view of Andrews (Paper #8, patent number 6,285,986).**

Domenick teaches a system and method for presenting travel packages on-demand in response to a particular customer request. Domenick further teaches:

- *Receiving a request identifying an interest in a set of items;* packaging-on-demand involving the creation of a travel package in response to a particular customer request (see at least page 2, 0022); communicating with customers (see at least page 3, 0026; page 4, 0037).
- *Identifying potential providers capable of providing items; in response to receiving the request;* communicating with potential providers (see at least pages 2-3, 0025; page 3, 0028; page 4, 0036).
- *Packaging multiple items from a plurality of different providers;* vacation package including car rental; different providers (see at least page 3, 0028; page 4, 0037).

- Providing information reflecting the package of items: communicating offers with customer over email or web site (see at least page 3, 0029).
- Receiving a purchase request: packaging system receives customer order (see at least page 4, 0036).
- Providing a confirmation: dynamic packaging engine receives the customer order, confirms availability, and books the services on behalf of the customer (see at least page 3, 0029).
- Discounting packaged items: rental car company offering a discount for its services when packaged in combination with airfare from a particular airline (see at least page 4, 0034). Please note examiner's interpretation: price of car rental will be less than if purchased alone, and total price of package combining car rental with a particular airline results in cost that is less than the sum of the car rental purchased alone and airfare purchased alone.
- Package request processor: dynamic packaging engine (see at least Fig. 2 (204); page 3, 0029).
- Provider database: market place engine and provider database (see at least Fig. 2 (202, 208); page 3, 0028).
- System generates packages based partially on agreements: rules determining provider's items are validly included (see at least page 3, 0028; 0034).

- Booking engine: dynamic packaging engine reserves requested services on behalf of the consumer (see at least page 3, 0029).

Domenick teaches all the above as noted under the 103(a) rejection and teaches a) selling agents, b) a bundled packaging system connecting consumers to sellers (please note examiner's interpretation: automated system is a selling agent for the sellers), c) sellers supplying products and services for a bundled offering, and b) purchases being made by buyers, but does not disclose determining compensation to at least one selling agent. Andrews teaches a system and method of bundling products and services from one or more providers at a bundle server (please note examiner's interpretation: a selling agent for the bundled vendors) in communication over a network with vendors of products and services, the bundle server providing information on the bundled package of items (e.g. bundle profile), and receiving a request to purchase a bundle package from a participating member (please see at least abstract; Fig. 1 (10, 24, 26-32, 34-40); col. 2, line 59 through col. 4, line 44). Andrews teaches a bundle vendor taking the responsibility of generating a bundle package (please note examiner's interpretation: bundle vendor becomes selling agent for other vendors included in the bundle; an appropriate party). Andrews teaches the controller's bundled tracking system tracking and generating status conditions, and further teaches a bundled package status whereby a closed status indicates that the bundle has been completely sold and all appropriate parties have been paid (please note examiner's interpretation: system and method determines

Art Unit: 3625

compensation for all appropriate parties). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to modify the method Domenick to process compensation for all appropriate parties as taught by Andrews, in order to attract selling agents and vendors to participate in the service.

Domenick and Andrews teach all the above as noted under the 103(a) rejection and teach a) travel agents as selling agents for providers, b) a bundle vendor as a selling agent for vendors included in a bundled package, c) selling agents selling bundled products for vendors selling products, and d) determining that all appropriate parties have been compensated once a bundle package sell is complete, but do not specifically disclose compensating at least one selling agent. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to disclose determining compensation for selling agents, since it is well within the skill to ascertain that selling agents receive compensation for services rendered.

Pertaining to system Claims 14-18

Rejection of claims 14-18 is based on the same rationale as noted above.

2. **Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Domenick (Paper # 20040811, patent application number 2002/0072937) and Andrews (Paper #8, patent number 6,285,986), in view Official Notice (Paper #8, regarding commission structure).**

Domenick and Andrews teach all the above as noted under the 103(a) rejection and further teach selling agents using the system to sell bundle packages (see at least col. 13, lines 16-22) and all parties involved in selling a bundle package being compensated, but do not specifically disclose a commission structure. This examiner takes the position that it is old and well-known that sellers of goods and services are compensated by being paid a commission based upon old and well-known commission structures (e.g. a percentage of gross sales, a percentage of net sales (sales price minus costs), or combination). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to modify the system and method of Andrews to disclose a commission structure as taught by Official Notice, in order to more fully inform selling agents and providers how they will be compensated, and thereby attract providers to the bundled package service.

3. Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Domenick (Paper # 20040811, patent application number 2002/0072937) and Andrews (Paper #8, patent number 6,285,986), as applied to Claim 1, further in view of Walker et al. (Paper #5, IDS, patent number 6,138,105 hereinafter referred to as “Walker”).

Domenick and Andrews teach all the above as noted under the 103(a) rejection and further teach a) the bundle server prompting the vendor for item suggested retail price and the item price if included in a bundled package, and b)

Art Unit: 3625

minimum auction price if included in an auctioned bundle (see at least col. 8, lines 13-21), but do not disclose specifics on bundle pricing schemes. Walker teaches bundled packaging of goods and services and pricing of bundled packages. Walker further teaches:

- bundling French fries (X: examiner's notation for regular retail price of French fries) and soda (Y: examiner's notation for regular retail price of soda) at a single price that is less than the sum of the prices of the individual products (bundled single price $<(X+Y)$) (see col. 1, lines 33-37),
- bundling of product X (product ID 1) with product Y (product ID 2) where at least the bundled price of X is 10% less than retail price of X by a predetermined percentage (see at least Fig. 5 (506); col. 6, lines 35-62).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to modify the method of Domenick and Andrews to disclose bundled pricing methods as taught by Walker, in order to provide a pricing incentive to the consumer, and thereby increase sales.

Domenick and Andrews teach all the above as noted under the 103(a) rejection and further teach a) each vendor providing a suggested retail price, and b) establishing an item price if included in a bundled package, but do not specifically disclose the item being less than the item suggested retail price by a percentage. Walker teaches all the above as noted under the 103(a) rejection and teach setting an item price included in a bundle lower than the retail price of the item by a predetermined percentage to create a purchasing incentive (see at

least Fig. 5 (506); col. 6, lines 35-62). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to modify the method of Domenick and Andrews to use a predetermined percentage to compute a lower item price as taught by Walker, in order to provide a pricing incentive to the consumer, and thereby increase sales.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert M. Pond whose telephone number is 571-272-6760. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Wynn Coggins can be reached on 571-272-7159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Robert M. Pond
Primary Examiner
July 21, 2005